

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, CPAS, UR (HENDRIX, JAMES M.)

SUBJECT: HENDRIX RETURN TO US

REF: A) MOSCOW 0292 B) MOSCOW 0140

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES TIME AND DISTANCE FACTORS WHICH WILL PROBABLY PRECLUDE SENDING MARSHALS TO POTI TO ESCORT HENDRIX TO MOSCOW, BUT REMAINS CONCERNED ABOUT ADEQUACY OF ESCORT BY CONSULAR OFFICER AND COMPANY REPRESENTATIVE WITHOUT ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE OF SECURITY-TRAINED PERSONNEL. DEPARTMENT THEREFORE STRONGLY SUGGESTS THAT EMBASSY SEEK ESCORT ASSISTANCE FROM MFA OR OTHER SOVIET AGENCY FOR POTI-MOSCOW TRIP IF IT HAS NOT ALREADY DONE SO.

2. WITH REGARD TO HENDRIX REQUEST FOR LEGAL COUNSEL, REF B, DEPT HAS TALKED TO MR. DORFMAN OF LAW FIRM PECHNER, SACKS AND DORFMAN. UNFORTUNATELY, FIRM IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOT RPT NOT PREPARED TO REPRESENT HIM, AS IT DOES NOT

HANDLE CRIMINAL CASES. HOWEVER, IF HENDRIX WISHES TO CONTACT FIRM UPON HIS RETURN, IT WILL BE GLAD TO REFER HIM TO APPROPRIATE COUNSEL.

3. SHOULD HENDRIX REQUEST, DEPT IS PREPARED TO CONVEY HIS DESIRE FOR LEGAL COUNSEL TO ANY OTHER LAW FIRM

OR TO A RELATIVE OR FRIEND. IN ANY CASE, IMMEDIATELY AFTER ARRIVAL IN US HE WILL BE ACCORDED EVERY NORMAL OPPORTUNITY TO OBTAIN LEGAL ADVICE.

4. ON PRESS GUIDANCE, EMBASSY SHOULD AVOID COMMENT ON HENDRIX CASE BEYOND THAT GIVEN IN PARA 5 BELOW. PURPOSE IS TO ESCHEW ANY ACTION WHICH MIGHT PREJUDICE HENDRIX RIGHTS AND ALSO TO MINIMIZE OPPORTUNITY FOR QUESTIONS TO ARISE OVER MATTER OF JURISDICTION WHICH MIGHT PROVE AWKWARD FOR SOVIETS.

5. DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDS EMBASSY REPLY ALONG FOLLOWING LINES IF ASKED:

AN AMERICAN SEAMAN WAS FOUND DEAD ON A US SHIP WHICH CALLED AT ODESSA. THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE MAN'S DEATH ARE CURRENTLY UNDER INVESTIGATION, AND IN ORDER TO AVOID PREJUDICING THE RIGHTS OF ANYONE CONNECTED WITH THE CASE, THE EMBASSY WILL NOT COMMENT FURTHER.

6. FYI: DEPARTMENT EXPECTS THAT USG WILL BE IN POSITION TO RELEASE ADDITIONAL DETAILS OF CASE AFTER HENDRIX SERVED WITH ARREST WARRANT AND IN CUSTODY IN NEW YORK. END FYI. KISSINGER

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